

SECRET
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Through the services of a faithful friend, I take advantage of the opportunity, dear friends, to write you a few lines on our emigration, on our mentality, on our spiritual situation, and on the life we lead. The bearer of this letter is a person whose sincerity has been proved: therefore do not be concerned. Scattered from Ohri to Antivari, the Albanian emigration is now composed of about six thousand persons, including in this number the women and children. Djakova, Gusinje, Pedejevo, Vitaminica, Skoplje, and Mitrovica are the centers where the greater part of the emigrants are concentrated.

The reception (on the part of the Yugoslav authorities) is excellent in the beginning for every Albanian emigrant, but this hospitality daily becomes cooler and worse according to the character and sentiments of each Albanian emigrant in his relations with the Communist Party and with the Yugoslav Government. Before being released, every emigrant is controlled and analyzed by competent authorities and then he is judged according to the opinion that is formed about him on the basis of Yugoslav objectives in our nation. Illiterates and men with a dishonest past are preferred.

The rest of the emigrants, who are known to be nationalists, are released for the sake of expediency, notwithstanding the fact that they are hated by the Yugoslavs. The majority of the emigrants, as you know, are of a low social class, without any intellectuals or persons of influence.

The emigration is controlled, guided and directed according to the personal desires and aims of General DUSAN and of his assistant Lieutenant Colonel CERO. The first is known to you already from the War of Liberation in Albania (for his mission); the second is a revolutionary type and is trying to fill the post held by the late MILADIN. The Committee, formed on orders from the Yugoslavs, is composed of those persons too well known for their characterless past or as ex-Communists in Albania. The President is a certain TEKFI, Apostol, from Korca, an ex-teacher in Albania who today refers to himself as a professor. He speaks Serbo-Croat, and for special merit and contributions to the pro-Yugoslav Albanian cause, he has obtained Yugoslav citizenship. Alcohol is his ideal. The Vice-President is SOKOLI, Mike, to my mind a hypocrite without conscience. I think you know his political past; therefore, comments are superfluous. He has monarchist political tendencies and, whenever possible, he propagates the idea, naturally without going counter to the desires of the Yugoslavs. SOKOLI, Mike, and TEKFI, Apostol, are the two persons most loyal to the Yugoslav Government. Both have at their disposal as much in the way of money and facilities as they wish. The personalities of the Bleku Kombetar Independent are hated and opposed. Publicly, and in our presence, personalities of the Bleku are praised and recognized as worthy to govern tomorrow in Albania. The other members of the Committee are blind servants of SOKOLI and TEKFI.

Only SPAHIU, Lufti, distinguishes himself from the other members because, up to the present, he has not carried out any activity for or against Yugoslavia. He resides at Priaren and is inactive. Perhaps he awaits a favorable moment for us. He is discontent with the situation of the Albanian emigration and with the obscure aims of the Yugoslav Government in its relations with Albania.

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All the activity of the Committee consists of spying on the reactionaries and discrediting them to the authorities. The two persons who do not conduct themselves well, because they talk too much are: PJETRI, Edue, and LIKAI, Pashko. I do not believe that they do this to harm us because that would be too much; they do it out of enthusiasm and immaturity. I have not felt these doubts personally, but I have heard them from other friends.

Their stupidity is continually going from one UDB office to another and of going around with UDB officials may harm us; therefore, I think that it is logical to set our limits with them, not cutting off correspondence completely but only codifying it.

The other part of the emigration continues to maintain an exemplary and decisive behavior (I speak for the north of Albania, with which persons we meet frequently; with those of the South who are now in Macedonia we are not yet in contact and do not know their mentality and their opinions, but we hope to know them before long). I, PALI and GJONI are much controlled and shadowed. In every direction we turn, we see the same guardian angels of the UDB. We cannot stay in anyone's company, because immediately afterward they accuse us and make various claims such as, for example: "You have received money from them" and "What did GJONI, Kole, say to you?" They believe that I am an agent of the Intelligence Service.

The points of the Atlantic Charter are not regarded willingly in these parts by the authorities, and I am much concerned lest, with the revision of the peace treaty, ^{Kosovos} be returned to Albania. They are doing everything to divide and stir up the Albanian problem among the same Kosovars. They have also opened the Turkish schools. The majority of the Kosovars are discontented. Here there are also reactionary groups, but very secret because they are under strict control.

At the moment of an internal revolution, many of the Kosovars would be at our side.

Of all the internal and exiled Albanian parties, the Blok Independent is that which is most blamed but at the same time feared. It is condemned and only if it could be approached could it succeed in its intentions to liberate Albania and put it under its own influence; the Blok is feared because any hostility with the Blok would cause them enormous harm from the point of view that it would entail the definite loss of reactionary persons who are indispensable for an eventual war in Albania.

The situation in Albania continues to be troubled and has perhaps also grown worse since we wrote you before. The suffering, the misery, the lack of food and death rule the country.

Torture and arrests are continuous for our faithful adherents and friends from the mountains, for which we are daily distressed.

The emigration generally vegetates, I say vegetates. The emigration thinks of other things.

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As regards our correspondence with the emigrants from here, I think you understand that you must moderate it. For my part, I shall always communicate that which is indispensable and concerns our cause.

I shall express myself with the superlative SHUN (very much) each time that I mean to say the contrary. Therefore the superlative SHUN will be an idea that should be interpreted according to our situation here and our political line.

To our letters please respond with the same tone and enthusiasm without losing yourselves in comments and trivialities.

I and GJON are trying to escape into Greece, through a local organization.

If the escape attempt has good possibilities of success, it will be done in a short time.

This letter is written in haste because the surroundings and brief time do not permit otherwise.

Take measures on your part, because that is our true life, and at the same time keep good relations with our so-called Yugoslav friends.

A proverb says: Everything makes bread.

May God protect you. Affectionately,

KOLA (NIK)

(GUMI, Kola)

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